

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT KUWAIT 3183 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON DTD 11 JUN.

QUOTE

UNCLASKUWAIT 3183

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SENV

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION:
KUWAITI RESPONSE

REF: KUWAIT 2780

1. SUMMARY: THE GOK HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY A
STATEMENT OF KUWAITI VIEWS ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION
ISSUES. THE STATEMENT UNDERLINES THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN POLLUTION AND THE KUWAITI SHIPPING INDUSTRY,
FAVORS SEGREGATED BALLAST BUT OPPOSES DOUBLE
BOTTOMS, AND ASSERTS THAT INERT GAS AND BACK-UP
RADAR SYSTEMS SHOULD BE "FULLY DISCUSSED." IT
ALSO NOTES THAT EXPERTS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES ARE
CONFERRING ON CREW STANDARDS, AND IT DOES NOT
FAVOR MOVING UP THE IMCO CONFERENCE ON WATCHKEEPING
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AND TRAINING IF THE LATTER INTERFERES WITH THE
FORMER. FINALLY THE GOK STATEMENT SAYS THAT KUWAIT
DOES NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE US-PROPOSED IMCO
PLENARY CONFERENCE ON POLLUTION ISSUES, IF THE
AGENDA WERE ACCEPTABLE, BUT IT NOTES THAT A
MINISTERIAL-LEVEL PERSIAN GULF-GULF OF OMAN
CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD BEFORE THEN (SEPTEMBER 1977)

WHICH MAY LINK KUWAITI POLICY TO A REGIONAL PLICY
ON MARINE POLLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PROMISED LAST MONTH (REFTEL), THE GOK HAS
SENT TO THE EMBASSY A STATEMENT OF VIEWS ON IMCO
MARINE POLLUTION ISSES AND ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S
MARCH 17 SPEECH ON MARINE POLLUTION, IN A LETTER
TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
UNDER SEC. THE SUBSTANTIVE TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT
FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THE
PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT ESPECIALLY
FROM OIL SPILLAGES TO A VULNERABLE ECO-SYSTEM SUCH
AS THAT OF THE SEMI-ENCLOSED ARABIAN GULF. IN
THIS REGARD AND CONCERNING SHIP SPILLAGES THE
RECORD INDICATES THAT KUWAIT HAS SPARED NO EFFORTS
TO CARRY OUT PREVENTIVE AND PUNITIVE MEASURES.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT IS, HOWEVER, GRADUALLY
DEVELOPING ITS SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND IN THIS
REGARD ITS POLICY SHOULD BE GEARED TO THIS
VERY IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY
SUCH AS KUWAIT.

KUWAIT SHIPPING COMPANIES, AS A POLICY, HAVE
ALWAYS ENDEAVORED TO ACQUIRE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED
VESSELS, FITTED WITH THE LATEST EQUIPMENT. OUR
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IS IN SYMPATHY WITH EFFORTS
TO ELIMINATE SUB-STANDARD SHIPS. THE FITTING OF
SUCH EXTRA EQUIPMENT ITEMS THAT MAY HELP IN THE
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PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS BY KUWAITI VESSELS HAVE
BEEN ENCOURAGED.

IN SPECIFICS I WISH TO STATE THE FOLLOWING POINTS
CONSISTING OF THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT:

IT HAS BEENPROPOSED BY KUWAIT THAT SEGREGATED
BALLAST ON EXISTING TANKERS OF 70,000 TONS
DEADWEIGHT OR MORE IS NECESSARY PRIOR TO THE ENTRY
INTO FORCE OF THE 1973 CONVENTION. THIS IN OUR
VIEW COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A PROPER L.O.T.
SYSTEM AND BALLAST RECEPTION FACILITIES WHICH IN
OUR CASE IS A COMPULSARY REQUIREMENT DUE TO THE
"SPECIAL AREA" CONDITIONS OF THE (GULFS AREAS).
NO FURTHER STRINGENT POLICY IS BELIEVED NECESSARY.

THE DOUBLE-BOTTOM PROPOSAL WAS DEFEATED AT THE
1973 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. KUWAIT DID NOT
SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL DUE TO WHAT MAY BE INVOLVED

IN FITTING THESE DOUBLE-BOTTOM TANKS AND A DROUGHT LIMITATION FOR TANKERS TRADING WITHIN THE ARABIAN GULF. FURTHERMORE EXCESSIVE CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES OF THESE TANKERS COULD CAUSE REGRESSIVE EFFECTS ON THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY OF KUWAIT. THESE VIEWS HAVE NOT ALTEREDM REGARDING INERT GAS SYSTEMS/BACK-UP RADAR SYSTEMS/ IMPROVED EMERGENCY STANDARDS/ IN PRINCIPLE WE ARE IN AGREEMENT,HOWEVER, THOSE REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE FULLY DISCUSSED BEFORE LEGISLATION ON GLOBAL BASIS.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER STATES MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB NATIONS, THE POLICY REGARDING CREW STANDARDS AND TRAINING IS BEING DEVELOPED. I UNDERSTAND THAT CERTAIN PREPARATORY MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS FROM ARAB STATES UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THAT END. THE STATE OF KUWAIT WOULD ONLY APPROVE SWITCHING THE SCHEDULE OF THE CONFERENCE ON WATCHKEEPING AND TRAINING TO AN EARLIER DATE IF IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE WORKING OF THIS GROUP.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT HAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO ATTENDING A CONFERENCE AT THE PLENIPOTENTIARY LEVEL. BEFORE A DEFINITE REPLY COULD BE GIVEN WE SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND CONSIDER THE AGENDA AND THE VARIOUS TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN SUCH A CONFERENCE. KUWAIT IS NEITHER A MEMBER OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE NOR THE COUNCIL OF IMCO; KUWAIT IS, HOWEVER, A MEMBER OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND OUR DETAILED VIEWS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE ON THIS MATTER.

FINALLY IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FROM OCTOBER 1977 THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT MAY BE LINKED TO A REGIONAL POLICY ENVISAGED THROUGH A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES TO BE HELD IN KUWAIT 29TH SEPTEMBER-7TH OCTOBER ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE REGION OF THE ARABIAN GULF, GULF OF OMAN AND A SMALL SECTION OF THE ARABIAN SEA. THE PARTIES OF THE REGION CONCERNED WILL BE BAHRAIN, IRAN, IRAQ, OMAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND KUWAIT. NATURALLY MARINE POLLUTION BY OIL FROM SHIPS SHALL BE A MAJOR ISSUEIN THIS CONFERENCE AND I BELIEVE IMCO HAS PREPARED A SPECIAL PROTOCL ON

THIS SUBJECT.

IN CONCLUSION. MR. AMBASSADOR, I FULLY APPRECIATE
THE PROBLEMS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH
RESPECT TO THE ISSUES OF OIL POLLUTION FROM
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SHIPS. HOWEVER, THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD ALSO BE
VIEWED ON A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, TAKING INTO
CONSIDERATION THE NEEDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. END TEXT.
SUTHERLLAND

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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